

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 1937

The meeting was called to order by the President at the New York Botanical Garden with nineteen members present. The minutes of the meeting of January 5 were read, and after a few minor changes, were unanimously adopted.

The resignations of Dr. Chester W. Emmons, Washington, D. C., and Mrs. R. P. Wodehouse were accepted with regret.

The Corresponding Secretary moved that Dr. G. M. Reed be elected to fill the vacancy on the Bulletin editorial board left by our deceased president, Dr. M. A. Howe. The motion was carried unanimously. The President then brought up the fact that our Local Flora Committee as at present constituted was unwieldy and too specific as to the groups of plants, and asked for a discussion by the Club of this matter. After considerable discussion a motion was passed instructing the President to proceed with a reorganization of the committee as best fitted present circumstances. The President further reported that not all of the standing and other special committees had yet been completed, but would be reported later.

Dr. R. A. Harper, chairman of a special committee on resolutions, then read a resolution commemorating Dr. M. A. Howe, as follows:

The Torrey Botanical Club notes with great sorrow the death of Dr. Marshall Avery Howe on December 24, 1936, at the age of 69 years. Following his election to membership January 12, 1897, Dr. Howe was one of the most active and valuable members of the Club. He was a faithful attendant at the regular meetings and was a leader in all activities having for their aim a more extended knowledge of plant life, as well as the welfare of the Club.

On occasions where careful thought and sound judgment were highly important Dr. Howe could always be depended upon to render effective service. His scientific contributions were of the highest order, many of his papers being sought by the editors for publication in *TORREYA*, the Bulletin and Memoirs.

Dr. Howe served the Club at various times in an official capacity as associate editor, editor of *TORREYA*, editor of the

Bulletin, secretary, vice-president and president, the last office being held at the time of his death. For many years he was the Club's delegate on the council of the New York Academy of Sciences of which he was an honored president for two years. The complete bibliography of his published works and official connections will appear later.

Members of the Torrey Botanical Club mourn the loss of a valued friend and colleague in his passing and wish to record here their deep appreciation of his great service to plant science and their high personal regard for him as an associate and colleague.

It is directed that these resolutions be printed with the minutes of this meeting in *Torreyia* and a copy sent to members of his family.

R. A. HARPER  
B. O. DODGE  
A. H. GRAVES

The work of this committee was approved and the memorial accepted by a standing vote.

The Corresponding Secretary then presented the applications of Sidney S. Greenfield, 325 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., C. L. Lundell, Univ. Herbarium, Michigan Univ., Ann Arbor, Mich.; and H. J. Scott, 1110 Hudson St., Hoboken, N. J., for membership. They were unanimously elected. The Corresponding Secretary also announced the action of the Council in approving Prof. Wm. L. Bray of Syracuse University for honorary life membership, and pointed out that Dr. A. J. Grout had been a member since 1897 and was thus in line for honorary life membership. A motion was unanimously passed electing him to this class and instructing the Corresponding Secretary to inform him of this action.

The Scientific Program consisted of an address by Dr. H. K. Svenson of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on the "Spring Flowers of the Cumberland." His colored lantern slides of these flowers were exceptionally good, and the talk stimulated considerable discussion of the problems of phylogeny, plant migration, and evolution.

D. ELIZABETH MARCY  
Recording Secretary

## MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2

The joint meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club and affiliated societies was called to order at Columbia University at 8:15 P.M. by President Barnhart. There were 88 persons present.

Dr. Carl D. La Rue of the University of Michigan gave an address on "Morphogenesis and Plant Tissue Cultures." He reported that mature plants could be grown from small portion of embryos which had not reached full development in the ovary. He indicated that this would be a valuable tool, particularly in the study of morphogenesis and genetics. The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides.

D. ELIZABETH MARCY  
Recording Secretary

## MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17

The meeting was called to order at the New York Botanical Garden by the President, Dr. J. H. Barnhart. There were 25 persons present. The minutes of the last two meetings were read and, with a few corrections, approved. Dr. F. T. McLean reported that the auditing committee had gone over the treasurer's books and found them to be correct.

The deaths of Mr. Stephen R. Smith, Dr. Philip Dowell, and Prof. D. S. Johnson, were reported by the secretary. It was agreed that President Barnhart, in writing to Mrs. Johnson, should express the condolences of the club. The secretary reported that letters of resignation had been received from Dr. Kingo Miyabe, and Dr. Vladimir A. Shternov.

In answer to a letter sent to the Governor in regard to the preservation of the beauty of the Palisades, President Barnhart read a reply from Walter T. Brown, Secretary to Governor Lehman, calling attention to Governor Lehman's message to the Legislature of January 6th, in which this matter was discussed.

A petition that the area for Mt. Olympus National Park proposed in the Wallgren Bill H. R. 7086, not be reduced, was read by the President. A motion was carried that this petition be sent to President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Interior Ickes, and Congressman Monrad C. Wallgren. Likewise it was directed

that the secretary send to President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Interior Ickes, Rep. H. L. Englebright of California, Senator Hiram W. Johnson, and to Mr. William G. Schulz, a petition for the preservation of the Sugar Pine Forests just outside Yosemite.

A letter from Dr. A. J. Grout thanking the club for his election to Honorary Life Membership was read.

For the scientific part of the program, Miss Lela V. Barton of the Boyce Thompson Institute talked on "Storage of Seeds." She demonstrated effectively how length of seed viability depended to a large extent upon the method of storage, and that different types of seeds required different storage conditions. The factors, temperature, moisture, and gaseous exchange, were shown to be of prime importance in preserving the life of the embryo, their effects being so inter-related that it was impossible to ascertain the separate influence of each.

The second speaker was Dr. John D. Guthrie, who discussed "Chemical Changes in Plant Tissue in Relation to Respiration and Dormancy." It is possible to break the dormancy of potato tubers by means of various chemicals, principally ethylene chlorhydrin, and potassium thiocyanate. An attempt was made to show how these chemicals brought about chemical changes in the tuber to increase respiration and stimulate growth. It was thought that the increase in glutathione in treated tubers had a direct bearing on this.

After some discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

D. ELIZABETH MARCY  
Recording Secretary

#### MEETING OF MARCH 2

President Barnhart called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M. at the American Museum of Natural History. Forty-three members and visitors were present. The following persons were unanimously elected to membership in the Club:

Lawrence M. Ames, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plains, Mass.; Henry N. Andrews, Jr., Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. Gladys E. Baker, 29 E. 29th Street, New York City; Prof. Stanley A. Cain, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.; John D. Dwyer, 220 Danforth Ave., Jersey City, N. J.;

James L. Edwards, 27 Stanford Place, Montclair, N. J.; Mrs. Helen W. Fields, 72 Rutland Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Dr. Edna M. Lind, The University of Sheffield 10, England; Prof. Velma D. Matthews, Coker College, Hartsville, S. C., Prof. William J. Robbins, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

Dr. E. J. Alexander of the New York Botanical Garden gave an interesting account of "Seed Collecting in the Rockies." The expedition had been sent out under the auspices of the New York Botanical Garden for the purpose of collecting seeds of plants suitable for horticultural adaptation. A wide area of the Rocky Mountains was covered, extending from Glacier National Park to central Colorado. Dr. Alexander showed many colored slides of the flora of the alpine and sub alpine regions.

D. ELIZABETH MARCY  
Recording Secretary